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Peace Corps and the CIA

The Journal is to be complimented on its recent editorial condemning the efforts of Senator Pell to censor, from the record of a public hearing, the fact that the Peace Corps has employed a former CIA agent in the organization. Such an attempt at censorship can only be deplored by anyone who wishes freedom of information on the activities of our governmental agencies.

From its inception the Peace Corps was careful not to employ anyone who had any connection with an intelligence-gathering agency. The CIA was also not to employ a former Peace Corps volunteer for five years following the volunteer's termination. Unfortunately Joseph Blatchford, the current director, has cast this rule to the winds in his steadily increasing efforts to Nixonize the Peace Corps, and make it even more ineffectual than it

already is. I continue to believe that the sooner the Peace Corps is disbanded as an organization, the better it will be for all.

It is fortunate that there are some people in Congress who are intensely interested in protecting the public's right to know, and put an end to the rampant nonsense of secret, censored and classified information that the public should be aware of. Sen. Mike Gravel of Alaska is one of these men who has gone out on a limb to keep the public informed. It is unfortunate that Sen. Pell is not a man of similar character, and similar sense of duty to the electorate. Hopefully the Pells, Blatchfords and others who try to censor will continue to be exposed in their shady efforts to deprive the public of its information.

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Beyond U.S. Bounds

✓ It should be noticed that Mr. Helms, director of the C.I.A., was in Tel Aviv on official business:

One should entertain the notion, then, that perhaps makers of military medals and prothesis and cachets might not lose a business of patriotic momentum because most citizens would end United States government warring in Indochina.

It appears that government officials, who made a pretense of manipulative influence by warring in Indochina, gloss over the questionable nature of official activity as exposed by citizen Ellsberg, and take the stand that military domination of that segment of the earth near Israel is of a different and less costly nature than that unspeakable situation in Indochina.

The truth of the matter is that Indochina and Israel are outside proper moral and constitutional bounds of the United States.

The practice of an individual in high position trying to prove he is superior to those who know what they are doing by reasonable standards, could be pointed to as

a prime reason for continuing deviation.

While the choice to discriminate is essential, extremes such as "secrecy" and "involuntary servitude" have no place in government. An acknowledged "secrecy" and a latent "involuntary servitude" are prerequisites of the C.I.A.

Individual good intentions notwithstanding, the C.I.A. can be likened to a sophisticated national peeping tom. There is no place in a government of good moral nature for such as the C.I.A. ✓

A government that accepts the nature of the C.I.A. becomes like the C.I.A. to whatever degree it accepts it.

Given the details of history it is reasonable to assume the workings of such organizations foster dissipation for themselves and for others. The failure of the Paris Peace Talks and the S.A.L.T. talks ✓ flow from a faulty approach endorsed by officials of several nations.

What, then, is an adequate defense for any nation? A nation openly regulated by officials using balanced standards of a constructive nature.

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